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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-first session

Items 24 and 38 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON

THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO

COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF

THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-first year

Letter dated 13 February 1976 from the Permanent Representative
of Madagascar to the United Nations, addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the message, a copy of which is annexed hereto, addressed to you on 9 February 1976 by His Excellency Commander Didier Ratsiraka, President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have this text circulated to the permanent missions of Member States and to the offices of permanent observers as an official document of the Security Council, in connexion with the questions with which the Council has been seized during February 1976, and of the General Assembly in connexion, in particular, with items 24 and 38 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.

The text of this message has been communicated to His Excellency Field Marshal Idi Amin Dada, President of the Republic of Uganda and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, and to His Excellency Mr. Houari Boumédiène, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and current Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries.

(Signed) Blaise RABETAFIKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/31/50.

ANNEX

Message dated 9 February 1976 from the President of the
Democratic Republic of Madagascar, addressed to the
Secretary-General

You will no doubt have noted that the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, which has clearly defined its position in respect of Western Sahara by pronouncing in favour of independence and self-determination for that country under the aegis of Polisario, and in respect of Angola by recognizing the People's Republic of Angola under the aegis of the Movimento Popular de Libertacao de Angola, has not, however, raised its voice against the multifarious manoeuvres conducted in this area of the Indian Ocean, which are nevertheless a source of tensions and a cause of constant serious concern.

This attitude has been prompted by our desire not to add fuel to the flames. However, in the present circumstances, it is no longer permissible to remain silent, silence has become intolerable, muteness condemnable, and any compromise synonymous with surrender.

The first referendum held by France in December 1974 should have settled once and for all the question of the Comoro Archipelago, 96 per cent of which voted "yes", since, in any event, the Comoros became a Member of the United Nations in November 1975. Under these circumstances, we fail to understand why another referendum should be held on the same question. We believe, for our part, that the balkanization of the Comoros will resolve nothing and that friendly co-operation between France and the Comoros would be more effective if conducted through a united, free and independent grouping of the Comoros, from which Mayotte will naturally benefit.

The Malagasy people, for their part, considers their independence incomplete as long as portions of African territory remain under foreign domination. It is for this reason that we have never renounced our rights over the small islands of the Indian Ocean, including Juan de Nova, which historically, geographically and legally, have always constituted an integral part of Malagasy national territory.

It is also for this reason that we continue to fight at the side of peoples struggling for their independence and liberty. This is particularly true in the case of Djibouti in which we favour true independence for the Territory, under the leadership of the authentic representatives of the people, and condemn the aggression perpetrated against our brothers of the Somali Democratic Republic.

I therefore have the honour to request that you, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Group, to do everything possible to eliminate these various sources of tension which stand to endanger the security of the countries in the region and to serve the imperialist aims of delaying the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, free of foreign military bases and of all foreign military presence.

(Signed) Didier RATSIRAKA
President of the Democratic
Republic of Madagascar
